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Appl. No.: 10/700,012

REMARKS

The last Office Action of August 2, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 10 and 11 have been canceled. No claim has been added. Amendments to the specification have been made. No fee is due.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,049,796 to Pall. It is noted that the reference to Pall '650 in the Office Action is in error and should read Pall '796. This has been confirmed by the Examiner during a telephone conversation on November 28, 2005.

Applicant has amended claim 1 by setting forth that the weft wires have a diameter which may also be greater than the clear distance between two neighboring warp wires. Original claim 1 as well as paragraph [0006] contained an error by relating to the possibility that the diameter of the weft wires may be smaller than the clear distance between two neighboring warp wires. This is clearly incorrect and does not agree with the disclosure in paragraph [0007], 3rd line ("*Their [weft wires] diameter may, however, also be greater*") or the disclosure in paragraph [0021], lines 3 and 4 ("*the diameter of the weft wires 12 is equal or **greater** than the clear distances between two neighboring warp wires 11*") [emphasis added]. In order to be consistent, paragraph [0006] of the specification has been amended as well. Please note that the disclosure now agrees also to the disclosure in German Patent Application, Serial No. 202 17 296.1, filed November 9, 2002, upon which priority is claimed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), and the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference (see paragraph [0001]).

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully traversed.

The present invention, set forth in claim 1 now on file, relates to a wire cloth having weft wires with a diameter which is equal or greater than a clear

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distance between two neighboring warp wires. In other words, the distance between the warp wires is equal or smaller than the diameter of the weft wires (compare paragraph [0021], last three lines). Despite this dimensional relationship between the weft diameter and the clear distance between warps, the wire cloth can be manufactured because of a constriction of the wefts in the crossover regions, using a suitable cold-forming technique. Claim 1 has further been amended to relate to the cold-forming technique. Support for the reference to "cold-forming" can be found in paragraph [0007], last four lines of the instant specification.

The Pall reference describes the manufacture of a perforate metallic sheet by interweaving metallic filaments. To arrive at the present invention, the Examiner noted, that since Pall *"uses the same diameter (0013in) filament for both warp and weft, the weft diameter is equal to the spacing between two adjacent warp filaments"*. This interpretation by the Examiner is divorced from the disclosure in Pall. As clearly shown in Figs. 3 and 4, even though the diameter of the warps and wefts may be the same, the diameter of the weft (18) is significantly smaller than the spacing between two warps (19).

Thus, Pall fails to disclose the dimensional relationship, as set forth in claim 1 now on file. Moreover, the weave pattern in Pall is stabilized by using a sintering process. In other words, unlike the present invention which uses a cold-forming process, Pall employs a heat-forming technique (2350 °F) to provide a uniform reduction in thickness and thus reduction in the opening size.

For the reasons set forth above, it is applicant's contention that Pall neither teaches nor suggests the features of the present invention, as recited in claim 1.

As for the rejection of the retained dependent claims, these claims depend on claim 1, share its presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should also be allowed.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is thus respectfully requested.

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Applicant has also carefully scrutinized the further cited prior art and finds it without any relevance to the newly submitted claims. It is thus felt that no specific discussion thereof is necessary.

Applicant has also amended the specification to correct an obvious typographic error.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW
CHANGES MADE**

Amend the following paragraph(s):

[0006] – According to one aspect of the present invention, a wire cloth includes metallic warp wires and metallic weft wires interwoven with one another, wherein the weft wires have each a diameter which is equal or ~~smaller~~ greater than a clear distance between two neighboring warp wires, and wherein the weft wires are constricted in crossing regions with the warp wires.--.

[0021] – It is to be understood that the principles described in the preceding description are applicable to any type of weave. In other words, regardless of the type of weave, the diameter of the weft wires 12 is equal or greater than the clear distances between two neighboring warp wires 11, or vice versa, i.e. the clear distance between two ~~neigh-boring~~ neighboring warp wires 11 is equal or smaller than the diameter of the weft wires 12.--.

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

1. (Currently amended) A wire cloth, comprising metallic warp wires and metallic weft wires interwoven with one another, wherein the weft wires have each a diameter which is equal or ~~smaller~~ greater than a clear distance between two neighboring warp wires, and wherein the weft wires are constricted in crossing regions with the warp wires, using a cold-forming technique.
2. (Original) The wire cloth of claim 1, wherein the weft wires are constricted in the crossing regions to or approximately to a clear distance measure of the warp wires.
3. (Original) The wire cloth of claim 1, wherein the weft wires have each a diameter in the range from 1/100 mm to 1/10 mm.
4. (Original) The wire cloth of claim 1, wherein the weft wires are constricted in the crossing regions with the warp wires by 10 % of their original diameter.
5. (Original) The wire cloth of claim 1, wherein the warp wires have a diameter which is greater than a diameter of the weft wires so as to provide a filter cloth.
6. (Original) The wire cloth of claim 1, wherein the diameter of the warp wires ranges between 0.03 mm to 0.125 mm.
7. (Original) The wire cloth of claim 1, wherein the diameter of the weft wires ranges between 0.02 mm to 0.1 mm.

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8. (Original) The wire cloth of claim 1, wherein the warp wires have a mesh count between 180 to 500 wires per inch.
9. (Original) The wire cloth of claim 1, wherein the weft wires have a mesh count between 500 to 5000 wires per inch.
- 10.-11. (Canceled)